

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 04068 181031Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-08
/077 W

-----182316Z 105611 /70

R 180921Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7344
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4068

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, RP, LY, XF
SUBJECT: MINDANAO SITUATION

REF: (A) MANILA 4008 (NOTAL); (B) MANILA 3987

1. MANILA PRESS OF MARCH 18 GENERALLY SILENT ON NON-PROGRESS
OF TRIPOLI TALKS. HOWEVER ORIENT NEWS HEADLINE DECLARES "AFP
READY FOR ANY 'TROUBLE' IN SOUTH. STORY QUOTES CHIEF OF
STAFF EXPINO DESCRIBING TROOP PREPAREDNESS WHILE STRESSING
THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES STILL STRICTLY OBSERVING CEASEFIRE.

2. EVIDENCE FROM OTHER SOURCES INDICATES THAT AFP IS BEEFING
UP MINDANAO CAPABILITY IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, IN ANTICIPATION
OF RENEWED FIGHTING WHEN TALKS FAIL. DAO RECENTLY OBSERVED
105MM HOWITZERS TRANSITTING MACTAN AIRPORT (CEBU)

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ENROUTE TO SOUTH. SOME NEW TROOP UNITS ALSO BEING SENT
SOUTH BUT THESE APPEAR TO BE MAINLY ROTATIONS. SINCE
MAJORITY--AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS--OF AFP MANEUVER
BATTALIONS ARE ALREADY DEPLOYED IN MINDANAO, THERE IS
LITTLE EXCESS STRENGTH ELSEWHERE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER.

3. COMMENT: THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY MANY IN AFP WHO

WOULD LIKE TO LAUNCH PREEMPTIVE ACTION AGAINST MUSLIMS
AND DANGER THAT AS LIBYAN INTRANSIGENCE CONTINUES, THEIR
HARD-LINE VIEWS MIGHT PREVAIL. ALTERNATE APPROACH WOULD BE TO
AVOID IF POSSIBLE APPEARANCE OF DRAMATIC RUPTURE IN TALKS AND
ATTEMPT TO KEEP CEASEFIRE SUPERVISORY TEAMS IN PLACE INDEFIN-
ITELY, BARRING AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR ON PART OF REBELS THEMSELVES
AND PENDING FURTHER DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES. IF FIGHTING RESUMES
IT BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT AFP WILL ENJOY GREATER SUCCESS
THAN IN PAST, GIVEN THAT MNLF HAS ALSO MADE USE OF
PAST TWO MONTHS' OPPORTUNITY TO REST, RECRUIT AND RESUPPLY.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: MINDANAO SITUATION
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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